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ABSTRACT

This book consists of papers and panel discussions presented at a conference that focused on encouraging American Indian and Alaska Native students to enter the field of biomedical research. Research and treatment of diseases among Native populations can best be carried out by American Indian and Alaska Native researchers who have a background in and knowledge of Native culture and lifestyle. The first section introduces the conference and includes an autobiographical account of an American Indian scientist who enjoyed a successful career in biomedical research. The second section consists of 12 papers that emphasize specific health and research needs among American Indian and Alaska Native peoples, including: (1) the epidemiology of cardiovascular disease and its impact on lifestyle among American Indians; (2) drug-related and behavioral disorders, fetal alcohol syndrome, suicide, and depression; (3) types of metabolic disorders that have historically followed a change in the diet of Native peoples; and (4) consequences of the compromised immune system with emphasis on AIDS and cancer. The third section, on training methods and opportunities, includes presentations and panel discussions related to attracting Native students to the biomedical sciences, generating support in overcoming cultural and educational barriers, and successful retention of Native students in higher education. The last section contains abstracts of health research conducted by Native students. This book includes a list of conference contributors and an index. (LP)

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